

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Wesely would move to amend with 2172.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. This is an amendment from Senator Haberman and myself. Senator Haberman, on General File, raised questions about trying to ensure. This is a prescreening for nursing homes in trying to ensure that this didn't end up being something that was only available in the urban areas and the original bill did call for a statewide effort. Then we worked with the administration to come up with a modeling project to try one urban and one rural situation for Medicaid eligible individuals only to see whether or not this can work, what kind of impact it would have and judge it from that. What this amendment does from Senator Haberman and I then is essentially saying, look, we'll do that modeling project for a two-year period and then what we'd like to see in two years you move toward a statewide effort on this prescreening activity and go back to the original bill where we talked about somebody who becomes eligible within a year, trying to screen on those individuals as well. We have a follow-up amendment that deals with some concerns about the timing of that screening process, but ultimately this is a very fundamental change in the way we provide care for our elderly and the concern is again that too many individuals are perhaps going into nursing homes that don't need to go in the nursing home at a much greater cost of doing so and we can find ways to take care of those needs in the community, perhaps in the home, at a much lower cost. So, again, what we're trying to do is say, yes, we'll go forward with the project with the administration to do the two model projects, but then we'd like to see in a two-year period moving toward a state effort and, again, depending on how the modeling goes, if that model works, great; if not, then we'll revisit the issue and perhaps make some changes. Senator Haberman, I don't know if you want to take any of my time. I mentioned that this is in response to the discussion we had. I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President (sic), members of the body, very seldom do Senator Wesely and I work closely together and agree and I agree with him on this project. It started out that it was going to be a split between eastern Nebraska and western Nebraska, but due to this amendment it joins the two. We're